# Resource Conservation and Development Councils

"Making Things Happen in West Virginia"



### West Virginia RC&D Councils

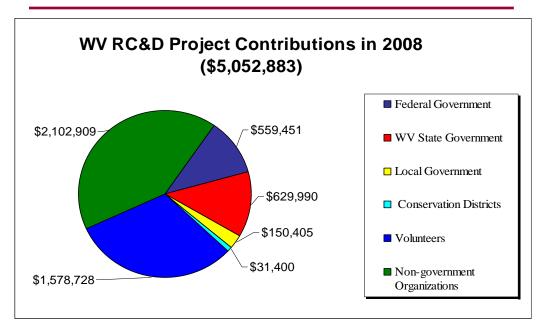
WV RC&D Councils are true non-profit, partnership organizations. County Commissions and Conservation Districts sponsor each RC&D in West Virginia. The RC&D Council is governed by a board of local citizens appointed by the sponsors. The Councils identify and prioritize local needs and opportunities. Councils and sponsors in partnership with the WV Conservation Agency and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service all work together to complete projects that support natural resources conservation and community development throughout the state.



Resource Conservation and Development Areas

#### What RC&D Councils Do

As not-for-profit organizations, RC&D Councils have the ability to leverage federal, state, local and private dollars to provide technical and financial services to communities to assist with project development and management, networking events, grants and resource conservation practices. In 2008 alone, WV RC&Ds assisted 116 local businesses, and provided benefits on 6,124 acres of land and water resource conservation projects. Please see the reverse side of this fact sheet for a sample of what RC&Ds are doing for WV.



RC&D Officers

Abby Chapple, President

Shirley Michael, Vice-President

Jim Ali, Secretary

Sharon Ulbright, Treasurer

## 2008 RC&D Project Highlights

#### Great Kanawha RC&D-(304)776-5256

- The Quilt Trail program in Mason County developed in 2008, and five quilt squares have been installed using volunteer labor. Plans for 2009 include a walking quilt trail in Point Pleasant and the installation of five more squares. The program will be highlighted by the WV Division of Tourism in the 2009 WV Travel Guide.
- The Council is in the process of updating its Area Plan, through community outreach efforts and distribution of a survey to gather public input. The members and coordinator have met with over 30 community groups. The plan is anticipated to be completed by September 2009.
- The RC&D has assisted the town of Ranger in enhancing their community park, through development of a concession stand, river access, and trail enhancements.

#### Little Kanawha RC&D-(304)679-3639

- The Little Kanawha RC&D (LK RC&D) Council is supporting the development and sustainability of local businesses associated with natural resources. One program for small businesses is the LK RC&D's revolving loan program. Another program is the Lawn, Garden, and Forestry Expo where local businesses can display the products and services to participants during a two day event. The Council is also coordinating with other non-profits groups to provide over \$600,000 worth of goods for citizens in need.
- Trail projects are a big part of the LKRC&D program. The Council is coordinating and administering funds for the 21 mile North Bend Lake Trail and other trail projects in the 9 county area.

#### Mountain RC&D-(304)469-9738

- The Council addressed many of the needs outlined in its 2008 plan of work, resulting in 30 completed projects and influencing nearly \$2 Million dollars in donated products, cash, technical assistance and in-kind services.
- Projects such as the NY Fancy Foods Show, Workshops on Agri-Business, Adult/Youth Environmental education and several Community Development projects were completed by the Agriculture and Economic / Education committees.
- The Environmental enhancement committees addressed the ecological concerns in several of the area's watersheds and assisted 5 local watershed associations with water monitoring, development of watershed based plans, and installation of stream restoration and enhancement projects.

#### Northern Panhandle RC&D-(304)242-0576

- The council adopted Project Sharing to distribute nonperishable food items, office and school supplies, clothing, and more to the Northern Panhandle communities. Plans are underway to develop warehouse space in order to continue this program.
- Grants were provided for playground safety lighting at Windsor Heights, improvements to the facilities at Turkey Run, window replacements at the Dry Ridge Community Center, playground improvements at New Manchester Elementary School, and fence for designated parking at the Red Barn in Moundsville, among others.
- The Council is developing its Area Plan for 2010-2014 utilizing a public survey and outreach to several community groups. The plan will be completed in the Fall of 2009.

#### Potomac Headwaters RC&D-(304)263-7547 x 5

- Potomac Water Watch (PWW), co-sponsored by PHRC&D, gathers information and provides education about emerging contaminants such as endocrine-disrupting compounds and pharmaceuticals. PWW is coordinating a prescription drug take-back program to keep pharmaceuticals out of the water.
- Building for a Greener Future Conference brings together builders, homeowners, and government officials for an exploration of the possibilities and practicalities for greener building.
- Growing Communities on Karst, an annual forum, brings together geologists, engineers, land use planners, and remediation specialists to discuss how to manage development in carbonate rock regions.

#### Wes-Mon-Ty RC&D-(304)457-4596

- Wes-Mon-Ty RC&D was awarded a \$47,000 grant from USDA Agricultural Marketing Service to expand local foods systems, enable farmers markets to accept electronic benefits and increase use of local foods among limited income residents, children and seniors. Major partners include the WVU Small Farms Center, Extension Food and Nutrition, WVDA Marketing Division.
- The RC&D also supported nine WVU Extension outreach meetings on improved management and resource conservation reaching approximately 50-60 agricultural producers at each meeting.
- Wes-Mon-Ty was also able to assist a number of rural development projects improving local infrastructure for recreation, education and social support.